

It is of course impossible, in a passing notice of this extraordinary brochure, to furnish more than the faintest outline of Dr. Sapolini's researches. These have in fact occupied years of study and patient investigation, and, although the author has not as yet realized the object of his studies, the discovery of the function of the pituitary body, still the anatomist and physiologist who reads his pages must feel that a step forward has been taken in the right direction. Such work as that embodied in this pamphlet is never done in vain; sooner or later it must produce good results, for, as the accomplished author writes, it is only by profound studies repeated, "*à outrance*," and based upon anatomical discoveries, that the function of the pituitary body can be brought to light. We trust that his labours may excite others to repeat and extend his investigations, and we sincerely join in the hope expressed in his concluding paragraph, that he himself may live to witness the fruition of his labours, the discovery of the physiological importance of this central organ, the pituitary body.

J. H. B.

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ART. XXVIII.—*A Treatise on the Diseases of the Eye.* By J. SOELBERG WELLS, F.R.C.S., Professor of Ophthalmology in King's College, London, etc. Third American edition from the Third English edition, with copious additions by CHARLES S. BULL, A.M., M.D., Surgeon and Pathologist to the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary; Lecturer on Ophthalmology in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. 8vo. pp. 895. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co., 1880.

THE merits of Wells's Treatise on Diseases of the Eye have been so universally acknowledged, and are so familiar to all who profess to have given any attention to ophthalmic surgery, that any discussion of them at this late day would be a work of supererogation. The first edition of the book was published in 1869, it appeared in French and German within a few months, and a third edition was issued in 1873. This last has been exhausted, and the book has been out of print for some time. The author was engaged in preparing a fourth edition, the appearance of which was postponed by his illness, and finally prevented by his lamented death.

Though ophthalmic surgery no longer advances with the astounding strides of the early days of the ophthalmoscopic era, it has by no means stood still in the last seven years, so that some corrections and many additions were required to make Mr. Wells's book a standard authority on the ophthalmology of to-day. The task of making these additions and corrections has been undertaken by Dr. Bull, and has been well performed. Very little that is practically useful in recent ophthalmic literature has escaped the editor, and the third American edition is well up to the times. The only important omission that we have noticed is the absence of any account of the metric system of nomenclature for glasses. This is a serious drawback upon the completeness of the work, as the metric system is rapidly coming into general use in ophthalmic surgery, and those who have no other source of information are likely to meet with cases of refraction reported in an unknown language.

The publishers have been liberal in the important matter of illustrations, which are numerous and good, and selections from the test-types of Jaeger and Snellen have been added. The occasional occurrence of the

initial "H." in editorial brackets, means that additions made to the second American edition by Dr. Hays have been retained.

There have been some valuable publications in ophthalmology since the last edition of Mr. Wells's book was issued, but none that could exactly take its place; no other one work on the subject contains so much and such readily accessible information, or covers so wide a field with the same careful attention to detail. As a text-book on ophthalmic surgery for the English-speaking practitioner it is without a rival G. C. H.

ART. XXIX.—*Atlas of Skin Diseases.* By LOUIS A. DUHRING, M.D., Professor of Skin Diseases in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, etc. Part VI. *Syphiloderma (pustulosum)*, *Erythema nodosum*, *Seborrhœa*, *Eczema (papulosum)*. Part VII. *Eczema (pustulosum)*, *Impetigo contagiosa*, *Syphiloderma (papulosum)*, *Lupus vulgaris*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1880.

THESE last numbers of the Atlas fully sustain the high character this work has so justly established for itself. It has been Prof. Duhring's purpose not to make it a gallery of the rare cases of disease which the specialist might desire to perpetuate in this form, but to present to the profession at large a series of illustrations typical of the most important affections of the skin in their every-day phases. It may be truly said that, now the publication has so nearly reached the limit originally designed, the subjects have been selected with excellent judgment, and will cover the whole ground within the possibilities of a work of its scope.

The plates contained in the above parts, illustrative of the diseases there specified, are of nearly uniform merit, and are all good, those representing the two forms of syphiloderma being especially praiseworthy. The picture of erythema nodosum, too, is by far the best that exists of this mysterious affection, Hebra's plate being a gross exaggeration of the ordinary appearances it presents. We have also here given us the only satisfactory representation of another disease, of the nature of which we know almost nothing, viz., impetigo contagiosa. With regard to the certainty of the author's statement that, "its contagious nature admits of no doubt," we must, however, beg still to entertain a doubt, and to use in this connection the language which he applies to the theories which have been advanced concerning its parasitic nature—"plausible, but as yet lacking sufficient proof." We can admit as yet but two classes of contagious affections of the skin: the constitutional, including the exanthemata and syphilis, and those of extraneous origin, the parasitic.

The descriptive text which accompanies each plate is as usual brief, plain, and admirable. We trust that the profession will not neglect this rapidly passing opportunity of obtaining such illustrations of skin diseases as will scarcely be offered again in the immediate future. J. C. W.